A Strange and Wonderful News from WHEELERS STREET IN SPITTLE-FIELDS.

BEING

A True and Just Account of a Woman there living that hath lain for a long time under a great and heavy affliction of

Witch-Craft,

Shewing also how the WITCH came in the shape of a great Squirrill, having a long Tayle, and a Head like a Cat, skipping and jumping about the Room, and how at its going away it went to the Beds-Feet, setting up its fore-feet, and laying the head between them, to the great terrour of the afflicted Woman.

ALSO

An Account how her Husband, going to a Doctor to get help for her, saw the shape of a Man and two Women appear to the Doctor and himself, which he knew: With many other passages. Strange, but True.

Licensed and Entred, according to Order.

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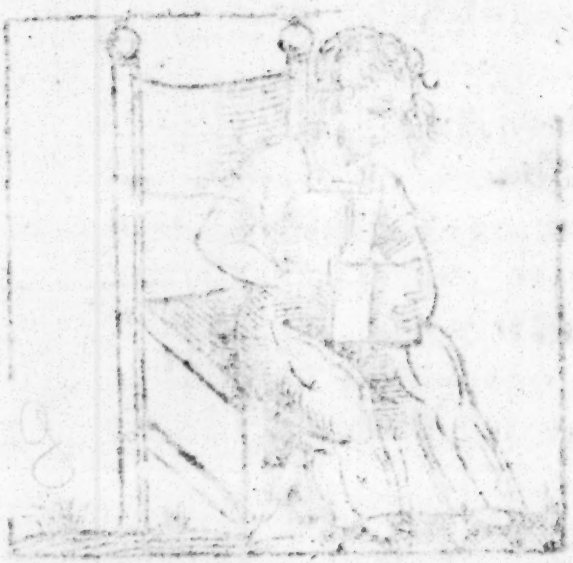

Strange and Wonderful News from *Wheelers street*, in Spittle Fields, &c.

Uch is the incredulity of ſome People, that they will not believe any thing, but what they are eye-witneſſes to, but that they may lie under a great miſtake, may appear theſe following Circumſtances, which have been ſo narrowly ſcand before they came to publication, that the Truth of the matter may paſs unqueſtionable. And the thing I now intend to inſiſt upon, is, About a woman now dwelling in *wheelers ſtreet* near *Spittle Fields*, and in the Pariſh of *Steponheath*, commonly known by the Name of *Stepney*; who, for a conſiderable time, hath been viſited with a ſad and dreadful affliction, tormented and affrightned with Devils, appearing in ſundry ſhapes, at ſeveral times to her, and not only to her, but likewiſe to divers perſons, who kindly offered their ſervice to watch with this afflicted woman Night after Night; when in the middle of the Night, that all things ſeemed to be quiet, and at reſt, ſuch a ſtrange and hideous noiſe happened, that filled the hearts of the watching Neighbourhood with conſternation and fear, ſuch a horrible and confuſed noiſe there was; and by and by a ſight as ſtrange to the Eye as the noiſe was to the Ear: and, as ſome ſay, down the Chimney came rattling a thing ſometimes in ſhape like a Squirril, only larger, with a long Tail, and a Head like a Cat, jumping and skipping about the Room in a ſtrange, and wonderful manner, to the amazement of all the perſons there preſent; and ſometimes it ran up the Curtains, terrifying with its ugly looks the poor Woman that all this while lay in a deplorable condition: Sometimes it came as it were from behind the Cham-

ber-Door in another ſhape; but always, when it was coming, it came with a great and tearfull noiſe, when the perſon aforementioned would uſually ſay, *Now, now my Torment is beginning afreſh, here comes my Tormenter*: But that which ſeems to me moſt ſtrange, is, that it was viſible to all perſons in the Room, when commonly it is apparent to only the perſons afflicted.

Thus hath this affliction continued for the ſpace of Three or Four Moneths, notwithſtanding all means have been uſed for the eaſe and help of the tormented Woman; But it hath been obſerved, that always, and at every time that this thing appeared, juſt before its vaniſhing, it went to the Beds-feet, ſetting up its two fore feet upon the Beds-feet, and there, for a ſeaſon, lay ſtaring the Woman full in the Face; who, for the ſpace aforementioned, hath layn in a languiſhing condition, as if ſhe had been ſtruck with the dead Palſey, not being able to ſtir hand nor foot, while her kind Husband was ſtill endeavouring to get help for her, but all in vain, for nothing of any means uſed could adminiſter any comfort to her, nor diminiſh any thing of her pains or feares.

Thus we may ſee how ſad and miſerable the ſtate of Man or Woman is, when God ſhall permit Satan to afflict them, and doubtleſs it is that this Perſon on whom we inſiſt, hath been an Offender; for otherwiſe God doth not give leave to Satan and his Agents to have power to torment.

But not too much to derogate from the intended matter, Let me acquaint you, that the Husband of this miſerable Creature thus afflicted, ſtudying and contriving how, or which way, to find eaſe for his diſtreſſed Wife, laboured continually, and without ceaſing, to know by what means ſhe might meet with a Remedy, and at laſt was informed of an Artiſt, not only able, but willing to help people in diſtreſs, who Lived in the ſame

Pariſh

Pariſh which the afflicted Perſon Lived in, who, for his admired Judgment in ſuch matters, was grown famous, but chiefly for ſhewing his Art in helping a poor Maid then living at *Tower-Hill*, that was not above Nine years of Age, who was poſſeſſed with Three Devils, who tormented this young Maid in a moſt terrible and lamentable manner, her Head, Face, and Neck being ſtrangely and monſtrouſly ſwelled, that the like was never ſeen; nay, and that which was moſt ſtrange, ſhe ſpitt fire, to the amazement of all that came near her: In this deplorable caſe this Maiden lay for a conſiderable ſeaſon, at length it happened that her Friends hearing of this Doctor, went to him, deſiring his aſſiſtance, to whom he promiſed that he would Uſe the beſt of his Art, and in the Name of God to be inſtrumental to do her good: Accordingly he went, and when he came to the door, before he ſaw the Maid, the Devils within her ſpoke in this manner, *Now is a Perſon coming to torment us*; naming the Doctors Name: But he being admitted to the preſence of the Maid, he preſently began to diſcourſe the Devils, who made him anſwer, *As they were in poſſeſſion, ſo they would continue*: All this while the Maid ſeemed to ſpeak, but her Lips never ſtirred; At laſt he by Art, or Gods Bleſſing, or both, ſo prevailed, that the Devils finding they muſt be removed out of their Station, asked, *whether they ſhould come out of her upwards or downwards?* he anſwered, *That as they went in at the Mouth, ſo they ſhould come out at the Mouth again.* Whereupon he laid his hand upon her Head, and what art he uſed I know not, but *immediately* a great Smoak came out of her Mouth, and one of the Devils alſo, when the Maid cry'd out, *There is one gone*, and ſo by degrees he ſerved the reſt, till the Maid by his Art, and Gods Bleſſing was perfectly Cured, and continues in perfect Health, to the admiration of all that Hear it.

This

This and other things made this Dr. eminent for an Artiſt, and to him the Husband of the woman beforementioned went, hoping to get ſome remedy for his poor wife then lying in ſo deplorable a condition; and having met with the Dr. diſcourſed the matter, and ſo they ſate down in a room together, the viſitant ſending for a bottle of Wine; thus as they were drinking together, an unlooked for Apparition ſurprized them with fear, eſpecially the man that was the viſitant; for there appeared before them the ſeeming ſubſtances of three perſons, one man and two women, all which ſhapes the man knew, the old man repreſenting the ſhape of an old beggar, whom he uſually relieved at his dore, inſomuch that his wife (who now is ſo ſtrangely viſited) ſeemed to be in ſome meaſure offended, often ſaying, that ſhe believed he gave Alms to him that had more money than himſelf, which ſome people judge may be one cauſe of her preſent miſery, the two women that appeared, ſeemed to be the ſhapes of two neighbours that lived in very good repute, which greatly cauſed his admiration; but having for ſome time ſtood ſtaring on them with an aking heart, he at length began to add courage to his fear, and rage to his courage, and (as ſome ſay) ran at them with a ſword, but miſſing them ſtruck it into the wall; ſo great was the force he uſed, to deſtroy thoſe which he then certainly believed was the inſtruments of his wifes Evil; but certain it is that he attempted to ſtrike them, but was interrupted and hindred by the Doctor, who knew it was not convenient to encounter with the Devil; but ſoon after the Doctor taking a book in his hand, and reading as he thought good himſelf, theſe unwelcome Apparitions ſeemed ſlowly to retreat, but he continued reading, till they going backward and backward by degrees at laſt vaniſhed quite away, and the aforeſaid Doctor hath uſed ſuch means by

ſetting

ſetting a bill over the dore of the Houſe where this woman dwelleth, and pinning of bills all about her Curtains and Vallons, that ſince that time ſhe hath not been troubled as before; but much to her comfort and ſatisfaction is ſomewhat amended, and thoſe limbs that before were numb and like dead, begins again to be uſeful to her; but one thing more is to be taken notice of, that when this thing or things which uſed ſo to viſit and affright this woman aforementioned, had run upon down skipping and leaping in her chamber, that hath been ſo long ill, it afterward goeth into the chamber where her mother lyeth being in the ſame houſe, and there it plays its pranks much to the terrour of the old Gentlewoman.

There was alſo another Family, the Maſter of which was a German, living at the further end of the ſame ſtreet, there being about ten in Family, who were all bewitched from the higheſt to the loweſt, and were in ſuch ſtrange conditions that it can hardly be expreſt; one of the Apprentices being in his fits juſt like a Changling, making of Mouths and Faces like one Mad, and ſometimes was ſo very ſtrong that half a dozen men could ſcarce hold him; beſides all the reſt of the Family were ſtrangly concern'd, who all by God's bleſſing were helped by this Experienced Dr. to the great applauſe of his Art.

Thus we may ſee what poor frail and impotent creatures we all are, when the Lord giveth leave to Satan to buffet us; how ought we therefore upon the knees of our hearts, dayly and hourly to petition the Almighty for his Protection, ſince we may plainly ſee that without it, we are no leſs than miſerable Caitiffs, uncapable of helping our ſelves in the leaſt diſtreſs; let it be our continual care ſo to walk before God, that he may take pleaſure in our preſervation, and not ſuffer Satan to have the leaſt power over us or ours; many and ſtrange have the Examples

yet

been of this kind and nature we before discourſed of, and yet people are no more mindful of them than if they were but fleabite; but ſhould they once lye under the burthen of ſuch pains and miſeries, as thoſe do who are afflicted in the manner aforeſaid; they would then know, what it was to want the help and aſſiſtance of an omnipotent hand: Lord grant that theſe Families before inſerted in this Paper, may be the laſt that we may hear of, that may be troubled in ſuch a dreadful manner as they have been; it is ſad to lye under the burden of a natural affliction, but much more where Witches and Devils ſhall be the cauſe of Diſtempers; Let not raſh judgements paſs upon our Doctor, ſo as to think that he doth theſe Cures by any unlawful Art, ſince he doth ingeniouſly profeſs that what he doth is in the name of the Lord; neither let the contents of this ſmall book be queſtioned for the Truth, ſince there is ſome Hundreds living near the place, where the matter we treat of is, that can and will freely atteſt and juſtify what is before mentioned; we do not tell you of a ſtory done a hundred miles off, that muſt either be believed or undiſproved; but here we give you an account of that which may (if queſtioned) be prooved for truth twenty times in a day: ſo praying for the proſperity of all good Chriſtians, I leave you to the tuition of the Almighty.

FINIS.